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The CIA Responds

Editor: Your editorial "The CIA and Congress" of May 28 alleges that the CIA was only reluctantly willing to support a comprehensive charter for the intelligence community and that the CIA would not support a charter any time in the future if the Hughes-Ryan amendment is revoked this year. Let me state unequivocally that I have repeatedly and publicly supported a comprehensive charter for the CIA and the intelligence community. I continue to do that today. I will continue to do that in the future regardless of whether or not the Hughes-Ryan amendment is repealed this year.

Additionally, you state that the CIA is arguing to be "unleashed." This is not at all the case. The only pieces of legislation which we are requesting be considered by the Congress are those that would help us restore a reasonable level of secrecy for our activities. We are not asking for any relaxation of the regulations which were issued by President Carter in January of 1978 to protect the rights and privacy of American citizens.

Stansfield Turner

Washington.

The writer is director of the Central Intelligence Agency.